

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC 6752

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 OECD PARIS 10460

PASS: GORDON GRANT, OES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEB, OECD

SUBJECT: MEETING OF OECD CSTP AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL

JUNE 24/25

REF: (A) TELCON KRAMISH/GRANT APRIL 22, (B) STATE

84771, (C) USOECD 084771

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT "QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION" AS REQUESTED TO BE TRANSMITTED TO DEPARTMENT IN REF TELCON. THIS VERSION DIFFERS SUBSTANTIALY FROM DRAFT CONSIDERED AT APRIL 15 MEETING OF SCIATTS AND INCORPORATES SOME, BUT NOT ALL, OF THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS IN REF (B). END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT. INTRODUCTION

SINCE THE MEETING OF MINISTERS OF SCIENCE OF THE OECD COUNTRIES IN 1971, THE TRENDS FORESEEN IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCENES HAVE CHANGED TO A FAR GREATER DEGREE THAN WAS EXPECTED. INTERDEPENDENCY AND COMPLEXITY ON A WORLDWIDE SCALE ARE NOW SEEN TO BE MAJOR FACTORS IN A SITUATION IN WHICH IT IS INCREASINGLY

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DIFFICULT TO DISTINGUISH DISCRETE PROBLEMS AND HENCE

PROPOSE INDIVIDUAL SOLUTIONS.

3. THUS THE THEME OF THE PRESENT MEETING, "SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COMPLEX PROBLEMS", RELATES TO THE PRINCIPAL QUESTION FACING MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: HOW SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVELY USED IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES AND BETTER APPLIED TO THE REAL PROBLEMS OF SOCIETY.

4. SIX PRINCIPAL ISSUES WITHIN THIS OVERALL THEME ARE PRESENTED IN THE DISCUSSION PAPER (SPT(75)2 (2ND REVISION)) ALL OF WHICH HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR ACTION AT BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. THEY ARE ADDRESSED TO MINISTERS IN THEIR DUAL CAPACITY AS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL, OR PART, OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEM, AND AS PARTICIPANTS IN THE FORMULATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY. A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RELATE TO THE FULL SPECTRUM OF THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY OECD IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL AIMS OF THE MEETING.

5. THE PURPOSE OF THE PRESENT PAPER IS TO FOCUS THE DISCUSSIONS ON SOME OF THE ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE DISCUSSION PAPER FOR WHICH MINISTERS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

I. THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN POLICY-MAKING

6. EVER SINCE THE EMERGENCE OF SCIENCE POLICY AS A RECOGNISED ELEMENT OF OVERALL POLICY-MAKING, VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTED. THIS EXPERIENCE PROVIDES A BASIS FOR EVALUATING THE ROLE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF SCIENCE POLICY BODIES, AT A TIME WHEN THE NEED FOR MID AND LONG-TERM PROSPECTIVE PLANNING TO ENSURE THE COMPATIBILITY OF OPTIONS AND TO ANTICIPATE FUTURE PROBLEMS IS INCREASINGLY REALISED. THE FACT THAT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE MAJOR AGENTS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE REAFFIRMS THE NEED FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO BE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH

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THE FORMULATION OF MID AND LONG-TERM GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES.

7(1) MINISTERS ARE, THEREFORE, INVITED TO CONSIDER WHETHER AND HOW OECD, AND IN PARTICULAR ITS COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY, COULD ASSIST MEMBER COUNTRIES IN IDENTIFYING THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMPONENTS OF POLICY DECISIONS BY: (19 AND 20C)

I) STUDYING AND IDENTIFYING THOSE ELEMENTS
OF MEDIUM AND LONG RANGE PLANNING AND
BROAD PROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS WHICH COULD

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BENEFIT FROM INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY;

II) UNDERTAKING A COMPARATIVE EXAMINATION
OF THE MECHANISMS AND METHODS EMPLOYED
BY MEMBER COUNTRIES TO ENSURE THE COORDI-
NATION OF R & D PRIORITIES BETWEEN THE
VARIOUS GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED;
III) EXPLORING THE IMPLICATIONS FOR SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE NEW TRENDS IN THE
STATE OF THE ECONOMY, INCLUDING THOSE
THAT HAVE APPEARED AS A RESULT OF GROWING
GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN THE ECONOMIC
AND INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS TO MEET PUBLIC
GOALS, AND OF CHANGES IN THE PATTERN OF
PRODUCTION.

II. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE RESEARCH SYSTEM

8. MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACE COMMON PROBLEMS IN DEFINING THE EXTENT AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. THESE PROBLEMS ARE AGGRAVATED BY PRESSURES AS DIVERSE AS THE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE THE TANGIBLE RESULTS OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND TO MAINTAIN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CAPACITY AND EQUILIBRIUM OF THE SYSTEM.

9. IN RELATION TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE RESEARCH SYSTEM, MINISTERS ARE INVITED TO CONSIDER:

(2) WHETHER EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE, PARTICULARLY AT NATIONAL LEVEL, TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPABILITY FOR ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS, WITH A VIEW TO (22) PROVIDING A MORE CONCRETE BASIS FOR GOVERNMENT DECISION MAKING;

(3) WHETHER OECD SHOULD EXAMINE THE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THE LEVELLING-OFF IN THE GROWTH OF FUNDS ALLOCATED TO RESEARCH (21 & 26A) AND DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLICATIONS FOR MAINTAINING THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE SYSTEM TO ACCOMMODATE BOTH SHORT AND LONG-TERM RESEARCH;

(4) THE MEASURES NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE OVERALL CAPACITY OF THE RESEARCH SYSTEM IS MAINTAINED WHILST ACCOMMODATING SHORT-TERM GOALS.(23 & 26C)

III. SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY AND THE NEED FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

10. BOTH THE RATE AND NATURE OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE HAVE RESULTED IN GROWING PUBLIC UNEASINESS. IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT ACCEPTANCE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC IS AN ESSENTIAL REQUISITE FOR THEIR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION. THE DEMAND FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING CALLS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MECHANISMS AND PROCEDURES TO ESTABLISH A BETTER EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, IDEAS AND COMMENTS BETWEEN THE PUBLIC, SCIENTISTS AND TECHNOLOGISTS AND GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE USE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO IDENTIFY AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE RESOLUTION OF SOCIAL NEEDS.

11. MINISTERS ARE INVITED TO CONSIDER WHETHER OECD SHOULD:

(5) INITIATE DISCUSSION OF THE EXPERIENCE OF MEMBER COUNTRIES WITH REGARD TO PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING ON ISSUES WHERE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE INVOLVED; (46B)

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- (6) EXAMINE MEANS OF ENCOURAGING A CLOSER ASSOCIATION OF THE NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND THE HUMANITIES IN AREAS SUCH AS TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT WHERE AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO PROBLEMS IS CALLED FOR. SUCH A STUDY SHOULD INCLUDE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR EDUCATION; (46A)
- (7) STUDY, WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES, HOW BEST TO ORGANISE, FOR DECISION-MAKING, THE COLLECTION SELECTION AND CRITICAL EVALUATION OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND ITS DISSEMINATION TO THE PUBLIC. (46A).

IV. A NEW VISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

12. THE MANAGEMENT OF RAW MATERIALS, THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD RESOURCES HAVE ACHIEVED AN URGENCY CHARACTERISED BY FEATURES OF GROWING NATIONAL INTERDEPENDENCE WHICH INDICATE THE NEED FOR THE CAREFUL AND CONSIDERED FORMULATION OF MID AND LONG-TERM POLICIES. A "NEW VISION" OF NATURAL RESOURCES ENCOMPASSES THE RECOGNITION OF THE LIMITATIONS ON EXISTING RESOURCES, THE COMPLEX INTERACTIONS WITHIN THE RESOURCES SYSTEM, AS WELL AS ITS INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION. A BETTER UNDER-

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STANDING OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES SYSTEM IS, THEREFORE,
ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO DETERMINE HOW GOVERNMENTAL ACTION
MAY BE MOST EFFECTIVE.

13. MINISTERS ARE, THEREFORE, INVITED TO CONSIDER
WHETHER:

- (8) THE OECD SHOULD PROMOTE STUDIES AIMED AT A
BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEX
SYSTEM OF NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING ITS
INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION; (57A)
- (9) THE OECD SHOULD EXPLORE MEANS WHEREBY MEMBER
COUNTRIES COULD ENSURE THAT THEIR RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT (INCLUDING THAT OF INDUSTRY)
MEETS THE OBJECTIVES OF AN OVERALL RESOURCES
POLICY WHICH TAKES INTO ACCOUNT OTHER NATIONAL
CONCERNS SUCH AS THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRON-
MENT. (57B)

V. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

14. THE MAJOR PROPORTION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGIC-
THE MAJOR PROPORTION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNO-
LOGICAL ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE OECD COUNTRIES.
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HOWEVER, ARRANGEMENTS BY WHICH THE SCIENTIFIC ELEMENTS
OF THESE ACTIVITIES ARE SHARED NO LONGER APPEAR ADE-
QUATE IN THE LIGHT OF EITHER THE NATURE OR DIMENSION
OF PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL VENTURES. THERE IS NEED, THERE-
FORE, TO EXAMINE AND DEVELOP NEW MODES OF TECHNOLOGICAL
AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION.

15. MINISTERS ARE THEREFORE INVITED TO CONSIDER
WHETHER:

- (10) OECD, RECOGNISING THE CHALLENGES POSED BY THE
GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL COUNTRIES, AND
THE SPECIFIC NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE
DEVELOPING WORLD, SHOULD SEEK TO PLACE A
DELIBERATE EMPHASIS ON INCREASING THE EFFECTIVE-
NESS OF COOPERATION AMONG OECD COUNTRIES WITH THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT (65)
TO THE TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES AND
THE CREATION OF AN ADEQUATE R & D CAPABILITY.
END TEXT.

- NUMBERS IN SQUARE BRACKETS REFER TO THE RELEVANT

PARAGRAPHS OF SPT(75)2 (SECOND REVISION).

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